

- mixing the boron carbide powder and the hafnium powder such as to obtain a homogeneous mixture, and

- sintering the homogeneous mixture at sufficient sintering pressure and temperature to obtain a composite material,

wherein the sintering pressure is applied before the temperature of the homogeneous mixture of the powders reaches the sinter reaction temperature of said mixture.

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IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

On a separate page, please replace the present abstract, now at page 33 of the application, with the following: